

nymphomania pure and simple may well be doubted. The great majority of so-called nymphomaniacs are hebephreniacs, paroniacs, hypomaniacs, or hysterical lunatics. In no case, other than those of imperative conception or certain periodical lunatics, is nymphomania the only symptom. Dr. Parvin's idea of nymphomania here cited is clearly biased by the description of older authors who ignored the other symptoms of insanity and laid stress on the nymphomania alone. This was at an epoch when the tendency to create monomaniacs dominated *dilettante alienists*. The description of the personal appearance of the ideal nymphomaniac is taken from some Parisian author. The manner in which the term maniac is used by Dr. Parvin does not denote a very extended acquaintance with psychiatrical terms. Dr. Parvin says that local vaginal application of cocaine has been of value in this symptom, but that moral suasion will be far more efficacious than drugs. The arms of a nymphomaniac may be tied, and she will masturbate by wriggling motions of her legs and thighs; her arms and legs may be tied and she will accomplish her purpose by rubbing her body against the bed, bureau, or other furniture; nothing less than death will control this all-devouring passion unless the mind can be impressed. The talk about removing the ovaries and clitoris reminds him of the man who was going to cut off the dog's tail to prevent him from going mad, when some one said that it would be necessary to cut it off *close behind his ears*. There are but few cases which will be benefitted by operative procedure. It is desirable, however, to remove all sources of irritation, and as has been shown by Dr. Goldsmith (*Alienist and Neurologist*, October, 1882), oöphorectomy is of decided value in certain chronic cases with nymphomaniacal symptoms as an aid to moral treatment. In such chronic cases motherhood is contra-indicated for the benefit of society and the patient; hence oöphorectomy cannot be regarded as contraindicated because it unsexes the woman.

KIERNAN.

#### THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

##### **The Treatment of Sciatica and Neuralgic Affections by Methyl Chloride.**

Dr. Henry B. Millard, in the *Therapeutic Gazette*, Feb. 15, 1886, describes this method, as Debon, the originator of it, showed it personally to him in Paris. As is known, methyl chloride is a gas, which is rendered liquid by pressure. The liquified gas directed upon the skin, produces immediate whitening and hardness by congelation; these two effects disappear almost immediately, the skin becoming red and hot. To quote from Debon: "The jet of Methyl Chloride is directed upon the skin of the entire region which is the seat of pain. In sciatica from the sacrum to the malleolus." Patients experience a burning sensation, which is painful, but in no wise comparable to that produced by cauterization by heat, nor is it of long duration. No dressing is necessary.

Practically the effect is the same as that of an extensive, superficial, and rapid cauterization, without vesication or destruction of the epidermis. This treatment is not suited to all forms of neuralgia, (*i. e.* syphilitic), it is most applicable to those having a rheumatic basis. Dr. M. mentions seven cases which he saw treated; and all were cured, or nearly cured, by from one to three applications. Unfortunately the cost of importing the necessary apparatus to this country would be nearly \$275.

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**Hypnone.** Hypnone as an hypnotic does not seem to "pan out" well. It has a horrible taste, is violently irritant, and should be given in gelatin capsules, or pearls: it seems to be unreliable and not free from danger.

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**Hopeine.** It is just as well to know that "Hopeine" has been proved to be a fraud, being only morphine flavored with hops.

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**Urethane or Carbamate of Ethyl.** Dr. HENRI HUCHARD, contributes his experience with Urethane. Translated from *Bulletin, Gen. de. Ther.*, Feb. 15, 1886, by F. R. Campbell, M.D.

The *Urethanes* form a class of ethers derived from carbamic acid, an acid which has been isolated, but which enters into the composition of several salts and ethers. This acid has certain chemical relations with urea, and it is on this account that the carbamic ethers have been called Urethanes. *Urethane*, or ethyl Urethane, in the carbamate of ethyl, or ethylic ether of carbamic acid. Its formula is,  $\text{N H}_{21} \text{Co}_2 \text{C}_2 \text{H}_2$  and is found to consist of rhomboidal crystals fusing at  $55^\circ$ , and distilling at  $180^\circ$ . It is very soluble in water, alcohol, and ether. Its taste is quite agreeable,—and resembles somewhat that of nitrate of potash. The new medicine was introduced into therapeutics by Schmideberg, of Strassburg, and has been studied by Jolly, Jacksch of Vienna, and by Riegel & Stecker, of Giessen, who recognized its sedative and hypnotic properties. H. gives the results of Dr. Elroy's experiments on rabbits and guinea-pigs with the drug, the general effect being to produce a kind of cataleptiform sleep.

One rabbit remained in a profound sleep during an entire day, under the influence of 3 gram. of urethane, given subcutaneously. In another, 9 gram. did not produce death.

Huchard, prescribed urethane in fourteen cases, suffering from various degrees of insomnia, and affected with various diseases, including heart disease and angina pectoris. The results are described as highly satisfactory, sleep, "calm, peaceful without dreams, digestion disturbance or headache," comes on in from 10 minutes to one hour, and last 4 to 10 hours. H. prefers 3-4 gram. as a dose instead 1-2 gram., directed by German writers, and gives it mixed with syr. aurant. cort.

One great advantage claimed for Urethane, is that it does not